



April 20, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: G/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at a Dinner Honoring Herman Wouk at the Library of Congress, April 21, 2004

Little, Brown and Company will host a dinner at the Library of Congress, April 21, 2004, in honor of Herman Wouk, and the release of his latest novel, "A Hole in Texas." The book is a Pulitzer-prize winning fictional account of a NASA scientist who becomes involved in a controversial science project. It has been determined to be in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to the dinner to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

Officials from other Federal agencies, members of Congress and staffers, members of the White House and staffers, Library of Congress, and representatives from media organizations, will attend the dinner. Fifty people are expected to attend the dinner. The estimated cost of the dinner, which includes food and beverage is \$100 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR 2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the dinner without charge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul G. Pastorek", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Paul G. Pastorek